

NEWARK COMMUNITY PROJECT FOR PWAs

Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
13 March, 1989 -- Newark Public Library

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Dean James Credle (in the absence of Mr. Winans, who was ill).

Those present included: Bishop Michael Bobien, Ms. Michelle Badger, Ms. Cerneata Baker, Ms. Carol Battle, Mr. Melvin Brice, Mr. Warren Brothers (Essex County Undersheriff), Mr. James Brown, Ms. Jeanette Hernandez-Cordero, Ms. Mildred Grummo, Mr. Charles Cummings, Hon. John D'Allesio (Essex County Sheriff) Mr. Curtis Ducksworth, Mr. James Foster, Rev. C. Brown Funes, Mr. Sherman Glasco, Ms. Isadora Hendricks, Mr. Charles Herring, Ms. Carol Huntington, Mr. Robert Hummel (Ass't Commissioner of Health A.I.D.S.), Ms. Jenifer Johnson, Ms. Patricia Smith-Johnson, Ms. Jacqueline Jones, Bishop J. Lucas, Ms. Jeane Marie Mirabella, Mr. Richard Panzer, Ms. Henrietta Parker, Hon. Joseph P. Parlavecchio (Essex County Freeholder Chairman) Hon. Donald Payne (U.S. Congressman), Mr. Richard Powell, Ms. Constance B. Proctor, Lady Mary Sheard, Mr. Richard Sheard, Hon. Larrie West Stalks (Essex County Register), Ms. Edna Thomas, Mr. Arthur Turner, Ms. Carolyn B. Thompson-Wallace, Mr. Ralph R. Waller, Mr. Timothy Weeks, Ms. Joan Whitlow, and Mr. John Young III.

Following Dean Credle's greetings and explanation of the meeting, he introduced Mr. Hummel (who explained he was operating on a tight schedule).

Mr. Hummel told those present of the work of the new Division on A.I.D.S. Control & Prevention of the State Department of Health. He lauded citizen involvement in the struggle against A.I.D.S., especially in adolescent education/prevention efforts to combat the spread of the HIV infection, as key to the future. The picture in New Jersey is currently grim, he noted, but the foundation of networking organizations such as the Newark Community Project for People With A.I.D.S. (N.C.P. for PWAs) is critical to future progress.

After Mr. Hummel's departure, Dean Credle brought forward Ms. Crump and Ms. Wallace to present a joint award from N.C.P. for PWAs and the International Youth Organization (I.Y.O.) to Ms. Joan Whitlow, Medical Editor for the Star-Ledger, "for her courage, commitment, and insights." In accepting the award, Ms. Whitlow noted that she had authored her first article about A.I.D.S. in New Jersey back in 1982 when the deadly disease was even less understood than today.

Dean Credle then asked Essex County Register Larrie Stalks, an N.C.P. co-founder, to introduce the evening's guest speaker, U.S. Congressman Donald Payne. Ms. Stalks noted that Mr. Payne was a long-time community activist in Newark addressing the needs of people and his pioneering work in the struggle against A.I.D.S. should be of no surprise.

Congressman Payne announced that the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations & Human Resources of the House Government Operations Committee, of which he is a new member, would conduct public hearings on the A.I.D.S. Crisis in North Jersey Monday, March 27th, at Essex County College. He said he had noted two "troubling themes" associated with the A.I.D.S. epidemic during his investigations in recent weeks:

(1) The lack of public awareness of the dimensions of the disease or of knowledge of where and how to get assistance--on even current information, and

(2) The lack of a sense of urgency or a recognition of crisis conditions on the part of the Federal Government, both in the Executive and in the legislative branches. The perception, with the exception of those affected by A.I.D.S. on those trying to help, is almost universally that this is someone else's problem-- until it hits home.

A panel discussion organized as an open Community Forum on the activities and future plans of different organizations involved in the struggle was then convened by Mr. James Foster, Director of Student Affairs for LMD-N.J. in Newark. Those participating included Ms. Michelle Badger of the Rutgers University Institute for Health & Health Care Policy; Ms. Carol Battle of the N.J. Women & A.I.D.S. Network; Ms. Jeanette Hernandez-Cordero, A.I.D.S. Coordinator for La CURA; and Ms. Jacqueline Jones and Ms. Jeanne Marie Mirabella of the Hyacinth Foundation.

Ms. Proctor then delivered the report of the Nominating Committee. Elections were then conducted and the following were named:

Mr. Derek T. Winans - Chairperson
Mr. Mark Toone - First Vice-Chair
Lady Mary Sheard - Second Vice-Chair
Mr. Curtis Ducksworth - Treasurer
Mr. Edward Simitkowski - Secretary
Mr. Richard Proctor - Trustee
Mr. Melvin Brice - Trustee
Ms. Mildred Crump - Trustee
Mr. James Brown - Trustee
Dean James Credle - Trustee
Mr. Richard Sheard - Trustee

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.